

Archeological Testing at the
Proposed Easement Exchange
Fort Harrison Unit
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Henrico County, Virginia



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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Archeological excavation of three test units at the proposed locations of an easement exchange at the Fort Harrison Unit did not identify any significant archeological resources. No additional archeological activities are recommended for this exchange which will have "no effect" on archeological resources.

INTRODUCTION

Richmond National Battlefield Park has proposed the exchange of a right-of-way easement of 0.02 acres at the Fort Harrison Unit in Henrico County within Tract 02-114 (Figure 1). In accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, archeological investigations were conducted to determine if the proposed exchange contained archeological resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed easement exchange is located on the north side of Hoke-Brady Road, east of the intersection with East Chaffin Road (Figure 2). Two narrow strips of land are proposed for exchange. The first, measuring approximately ten by thirty-one feet, is level, covered in grass, and bordered by tulip poplar and oak trees. The second, some five hundred feet to the east, measures approximately ten by twenty-five feet and is surrounded by large (>15 inch diameter) pine trees and has been somewhat modified by construction of the Hoke-Brady Road on its south margin.

Historically, the easement is located just in front (east) of what the Confederate army called the "Camp Wall" on Chaffin's Bluff. The fortifications comprising that wall ran from the Osborne Turnpike northward toward the River Road, with Fort Harrison incorporated into them. They were constructed in 1862. The portion of the Camp Wall opposite the land swap parcel was abandoned by the Confederates during the fighting in September 1864. The Union line--constructed after the actions of September 29-30--stretched from Fort Harrison to Fort Brady and passed just east of the land swap parcel. Union Battery #2 was closest. This line was manned from October 1864 to April 1865, initially by troops from the Union 18th Corps and later those from the 25th Corps. There was no fighting on this ground of enough size to merit an individual identity.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Data Collection Procedures: Archeological investigations were conducted in accordance with the National Park Service's "Secretary's Standards for Archeology." Soil profiles were documented during excavation by measured drawings. Curatorial activities were conducted in accordance with the NPS's *Museum Handbook*. Tests were excavated to sterile soil, with all soils passed through one-quarter inch hardware cloth. Soil colors were recorded using the Munsell soil color system. All materials associated with this project are curated at Richmond National Battlefield Park.



Figure 1: Project location indicated by arrow. Detail from U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Dutch Gap and Drewry's Bluff Quadrangles.



Figure 2: Location of proposed easement.

Results of Excavations: Two controlled units measuring two feet east/west by one and one-half feet north/south were excavated in the western location of the proposed easement exchange on November 24, 1998 (Figure 3). Test 1 was located 14 feet south of Hoke Brady Road, in the approximate center of the easement. Excavation of Test 1 revealed four strata (Figures 4 and 5):

- A: dark grayish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2) sandy loam from surface to 0.1 fbs.
- B: brown (Munsell 10YR 5/3) sandy loam from 0.1 to 0.3 fbs.
- C: light yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 6/4) sandy loam from 0.3 to 0.75 fbs.
- D: yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 5/6) dense sandy loam below 0.75 fbs.

Test 2 was excavated 25 feet south of the Hoke Brady Road on the eastern margin of the easement. Like Test 1, it had four strata (Figures 4 and 6):

- A: dark grayish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2) sandy loam from surface to 0.15 fbs.
- B: brown (Munsell 10YR 5/3) sandy loam from 0.15 to 0.3 fbs.
- C: light yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 6/4) sandy loam from 0.3 to 0.75 fbs.
- D: yellowish brown (Munsell 10YR 5/6) dense sandy loam below 0.75 fbs.

Test 3 was excavated in the eastern proposed easement exchange on October 11, 1999. Measuring 2.5 feet north/south and two feet east/west, it had four strata (Figures 7 and 8):

- A: black (Munsell 10YR 2/1) sandy loam from surface to 0.25 fbs.
- B: dark grayish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2) sandy loam from 0.25 to 0.6 fbs.
- C: pale brown (Munsell 10YR 6/3) sandy loam from 0.6 to 1.0 fbs.
- D: pale brown (Munsell 10YR 6/3) sandy loam with abundant orange mottles below 1fbs.

Excavation of Tests 1, 2, and 3 indicated the presence of a plow zone across the proposed easement (represented by Strata B and C in Tests 1 and 2, and Stratum B in Test 3), and indicated that construction of a paved drive will not effect any archeological resources. The proposed easement exchange will have “no effect” on archeological resources.

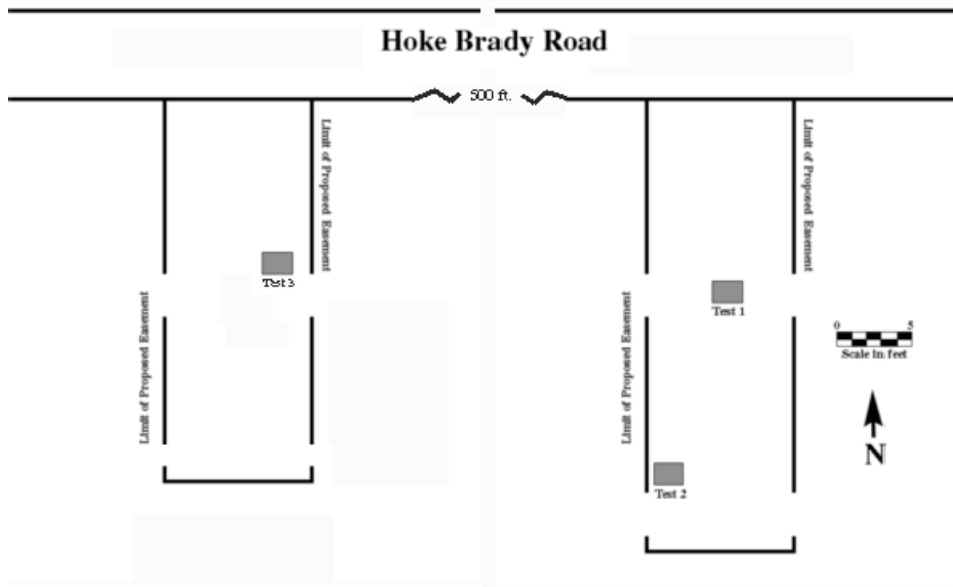


Figure 3: Location of archeological tests within proposed easement exchange.

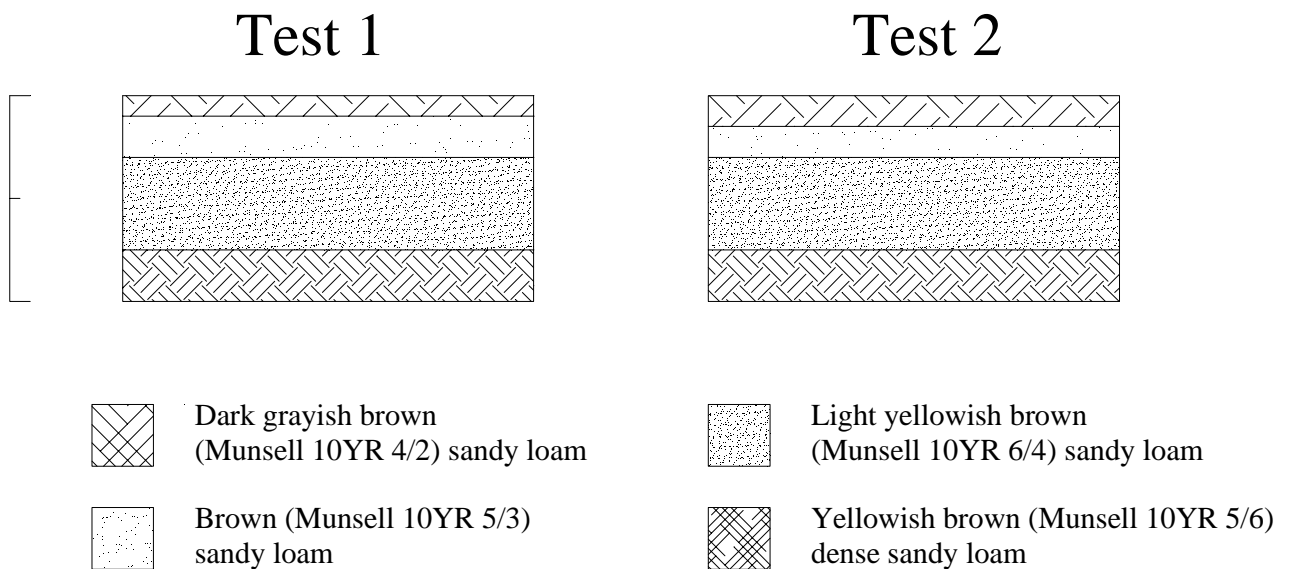


Figure 4: South profiles of Tests 1 and 2.



Figure 5: South profile of Test 1.



Figure 6: South profile of Test 2.

Test 3 South Profile

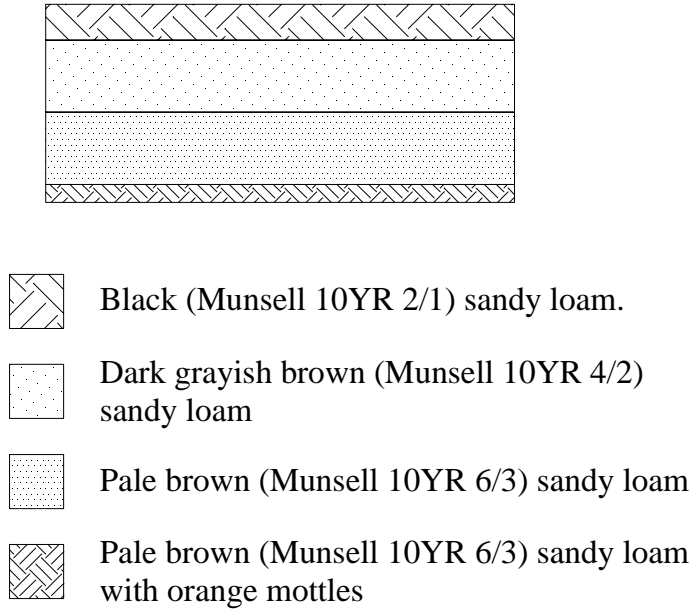


Figure 7: South profile of Test 3.



Figure 8: Photograph of south profile Test 3.